

DISK DRIVE HEAD WITH RADIALLY SPACED READ AND WRITE ELEMENTS ON RESPECTIVE PROTRUSION PADS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The head of a disk drive has write elements disposed on one protrusion pad that wears away during initial operation to permit reduced tolerances and, thus, reduced spacing between the disk and head, with the read element being disposed on a separate protrusion pad and spaced from the write element pad in the radial dimension. This prevents read element recession during cooling in the absence of write current that could otherwise occur if the read element were located on the same pad as the write head.